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Doug Jones' Win Breaks Alabama's Long Record Of Electing  
Climate Change Deniers; How Cities Can 'Meat' the Climate  
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*"It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself."*

~Rachel Carson

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## Doug Jones' Win Breaks Alabama's Long Record of Electing Climate Change Deniers

Doug Jones, the first Democrat elected senator in the state in 25 years, listed a “belief in science” and a will to “work to slow or reverse the impact of climate change” as the sixth of 10 platform issues on his campaign website. In October, the League of Conservation Voters named Jones one of its first Senate endorsements. As he barnstormed the state, the 63-year-old inveighed against the injustice of a befouled environment and unsafe drinking water.



Alabama is already suffering the effects of climate change. The Heart of Dixie emerged in June from more than a year of “the worst drought in memory,” affecting 98 percent of the state. Alabama dodged the worst damage of a series of devastating hurricanes that wreaked havoc throughout the region earlier this year. But while 63 percent of Alabamians believe global warming is happening, just 48 percent understand it’s caused primarily by humans, according to 2016 survey data from the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. Find out more through the [Huffington Post](#)

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## GOP Tax Bill Sneaks Plan to Drill Arctic Refuge



The bill "contains the single most important step I believe we can take to strengthen our energy security and create new wealth," Murkowski, who chairs the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said Wednesday at the tax bill conference committee meeting.

"We fought long to authorize a program for energy development in Alaska's nonwilderness 1002 area," she said.

The "1002 area" is a 1.5-million-acre coastal plain that holds potentially large deposits of oil and gas but also contains crucial wildlife habitats. A new [analysis](#) by the Center for American Progress and Conservation Science Partners describes the coastal plain that Sen. Murkowski's rider would auction off for drilling as the "biological heart" of the Arctic Refuge that hosts one-third of all polar bear denning habitat in the U.S. and one-third of the migratory birds that come to the Arctic Refuge. It is also considered sacred to the indigenous Gwich'in people, who sustain themselves from the caribou that migrate there. Learn more at [EcoWatch](#).

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## Fracking Study Finds Low Birth Weights Near Natural Gas Drilling Sites

Babies born near hydraulic fracturing sites are 25 percent more likely to have a low birth weight than those born only a few kilometers away, a new study of more than 1 million births in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale region concludes.

The study, published Wednesday in the journal [Science Advances](#), provides some of the most compelling data to date linking the process of hydraulic fracturing to negative health effects. It found that babies born within 3 kilometers of fracking sites were less healthy than those born farther away, and that babies born within 1 kilometer saw the largest effects. Read more from [Inside Climate News](#)



## World Bank to Quit Upstream Oil and Gas projects after 2019



The [World Bank](#) will no longer finance upstream oil and gas after 2019, it announced Tuesday, winning praise from civil society for its "true climate leadership." The [announcement](#) was met with whoops and sustained applause at the One Planet climate summit in Paris, hosted by the French government, alongside the World Bank and [United Nations](#).

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said the decision came as the lender aligned its goals to meet those of the COP21 Paris Climate Agreement, which aims to keep global temperatures below a 2 degree increase on pre-industrial levels. The move all but eliminates the World Bank's support for fossil fuels, with Kim saying it had not supported coal projects since 2010. Find out more at [Devex](#)

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## Meat Tax 'Inevitable' to Beat Climate and Health Crises, Says Report

"Sin taxes" on meat to reduce its huge impact on climate change and human health look inevitable, according to analysts for investors managing more than \$4tn of assets.

The global livestock industry causes 15% of all global greenhouse gas emissions and meat consumption is rising around the world, but [dangerous climate change cannot be avoided](#) unless this is radically curbed. Furthermore, many people already eat far too much meat, seriously damaging their health and incurring huge costs. Livestock also drive other problems, such as water pollution and antibiotic resistance. For a deeper dive check out [The Guardian](#).



## How Cities Can 'Meat' the Climate Challenge

## **The world cannot meet climate targets without curbing consumption of animal products.**



Addressing a crowd of mayors gathered in his hometown last week, former President Obama called on the "new faces of American leadership" on climate change to take swift action to spare our children and grandchildren from a climate catastrophe. Twenty-five U.S. mayors signed the "Chicago Charter," affirming a commitment from their cities to meet the Paris agreement target for greenhouse gas reductions by 2025.

Many of these leaders made commitments to pursue aggressive strategies like purchasing 100 percent renewable energy and fuel-efficient vehicles. But the list of climate commitments that emerged from the Chicago Charter omitted a critical sector, accounting for about one fourth of global emissions: food

As a coalition of dozens of environmental and health groups point out in a recent letter to the signatories of the "We Are Still In" declaration, municipal climate mitigation efforts will be "ineffective in halting climate change if we do not also significantly slash emissions embedded in the food we eat." That's because, simply put, the world cannot meet climate targets without curbing consumption of animal products, which are responsible for far more emissions than plant-based foods. Take a further look at EcoWatch.

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## Soils Reveal a Hidden Cost of Farming



New research out of Montana State University finds that, in one agricultural basin in the upper Missouri River watershed, groundwater and streams mirrored soil chemistry. For the environment, you are what's in your dirt.

And in the Judith River basin, where farmers fertilize crops of wheat and barley, researchers found mean nitrate levels in drinking wells more than twice federal standards. Those concentrations exceeded the 75th percentile for Montana's statewide agricultural well network and landed in the 95th percentile for a 2011 survey nitrate pollution in U.S. wells. Check with [Environmental Health News](#) for further info.

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The Rachel Carson Council, founded in 1965, is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

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